

The Berkeley Beacon

Emerson College's student newspaper since 1947 • berkeleybeacon.com

Thursday, November 10, 2022 • Volume 76, Issue 10

 @berkeleybeacon // @beaconupdate

Healey wins governors race, first female and lesbian elected

Hannah Nguyen
Beacon Staff

Democratic Attorney General Maura Healey scored a historic win Tuesday night after becoming the first elected female governor in Massachusetts and the first openly lesbian governor in the nation.

The Associated Press called the race for Healey and Kim Driscoll shortly after the polls closed at 8 p.m.

"To those who voted for me and to those who didn't, I want you to know that I'll be a governor for everyone and I'll work with anyone who's up for making a difference in this state," Healey said to the crowd at Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston.

Healey defeated Republican Geoff Diehl, a former state representative who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump. She is the second Democrat to win the governor's office in 30 years, replacing Republican Charlie Baker, who held the governorship for eight years prior to declining to run for a third term.

Diehl conceded the race three hours after the AP called the race for Healey.

"The people of the Commonwealth have spoken," he said to his supporters at Boston Harbor Hotel. "I respect their choice, and



Photo Ashlyn Wang

I ask everyone who supported me and Leah to give her the same opportunity for success that I would have asked if the shoe had been on the other foot."

As of Wednesday at 9:04 p.m with 95% of votes counted, Healey garnered 1,504,749 votes, about 63% of the total votes.

"Tonight I want to say something to every little girl and every young LGBTQ person out there. I hope tonight shows you that you can be whatever, whoever you want to be and nothing and no one

can ever get in your way except your own imagination and that's not going to happen." Healey said.

Driscoll, who became Lieutenant Governor with Tuesday's win, reflected on her initial run for mayor of Salem, MA; she was told the city wasn't ready for a female mayor.

"As you can see I didn't wait my turn," Driscoll said. "In fact, I was elected as the first woman to lead Salem in its 400-year history."

Healey Pg. 3

Diehl concedes to Healey; his supporters don't

Maddie Barron
Beacon Staff

mainstream media ... I want you to hang on," Green said. "A red tsunami is brewing."

Supporters remained optimistic that the "red wave" political experts were anticipating would head for the blue state. John Hajjar, a Diehl supporter at the event, expected the policies of Diehl and other GOP candidates to appeal to voters in Massachusetts.

"I think [Republican candidates] offer a great vision of a very bright future ... and I hope we embrace that," Hajjar said.

Denise Tourres, who alleged she attended the events of Jan. 6 at the U.S. Capitol, hoped Americans would recognize what was at stake in this election: "Freedom. Freedom for all of us and especially the future of our children," she said.

Tourres does not want the U.S. to descend into a "future of tyranny" under a democratic congressional majority.

Many Diehl supporters were fond of his policies regarding limited government interference on topics like the COVID-19 vaccine, taxes, and schools. They hoped these hot-button issues would attract independents, who were predicted to lean Republican in the midterms.

Diehl Pg. 2

"What you see on your TVs is not the voters, it is the projection of the

Reformed podcast co-host starts his own clothing line



Courtesy Robert Hansen

Mariyam Quaisar
Beacon Staff

Apollo 13 may have exploded, but Apollo Hansen made it to the moon.

Junior Robert Hansen's marketing brand Apollo Hansen Design combines an art gallery with an online marketplace.

The 20-year-old marketing major, filmmaker, and fashion developer rebranded marketing through self expression. Currently in his junior year, Hansen interns for Nicole Landers Consulting from the ELA campus.

An astronaut in his own right, junior Robert Hansen's inter-disciplinary prospects push the boundaries of what the traditional marketing major looks like. Whether he's play-acting an M&M-munching softball bleacher crush in the 2021 EIV short film "Cake Bakin' Betty," or laying down a 1 a.m. freestyle about the bubonic plague on his COVID-era podcast "Kali, Fornication, and the Robster," Hansen effortlessly mixes mediums by channeling his creativity into a

multifaceted career.

"There is an art to marketing, not just in the content that you're making, but also in how you interact with others," Hansen said. "I really enjoy that give and take. There's a performative quality to it that I really enjoy and it's just fulfilling."

"[Naming the brand] 'Apollo Hansen' was initially a practical thing," Hansen said. "If you look up Robert Hansen online, what you'll find is a serial killer from the 1980s. So when I was making my website, I was like, 'I don't want to compete with that guy on search results.'"

True to name, apollohansendesign.com showcases Hansen's promotional posters of past projects, album covers of his friend's bands, and apparel for all occasions.

Much of Hansen's merchandise, especially his signature clothing line, lives up to his design mantra: "smart designs made stupid fast."

Apollo Pg. 6

Emerson's women's soccer clinches NEWMAC championship with 1-0 win over Clark

Leo Kagan and Tyler Foy
Beacon Staff

As the scoreboard counted down at Rotch Field Saturday afternoon, senior midfielder Cali Bruce—along with her teammates—was focused on making sure the Emerson Lions' one-goal lead would not be erased. Although her attention honed in on defending until the end, she couldn't help but think as time expired: "As it ticked down, all I could think was, 'We did it,'" Bruce said. "We finally did it."

The women's soccer team clinched the NEWMAC Championship with a 1-0 victory over the Clark University Cougars, completing a historic run to the conference title—the first in program history. The playoffs began with a thrilling last-minute comeback against Wheaton College on Tuesday night and continued with a 3-2 win against no. 2-ranked Babson College on Thursday.

Saturday's NEWMAC postseason finale against the Cougars—who knocked off no. 1-ranked MIT to reach the finals—featured tight back-and-forth play through the middle of the field, but few scoring chances. Both teams took only five shots combined in the first half, just three of which were on target. Bruce said despite a slow offensive first half, the Lions didn't want to press too much.

"We're a really possession-oriented team," she said. "We didn't want to change our style to how they play. [We were] making sure we did what we needed to do and know how to do [it] well."

Bruce added that keeping the ball on the wings and the ground was a

key element to the Lions' success shutting down Clark's chances in the first half—particularly those from the Cougars' midfielder Jamie Josph.

In the second half, the game began to open up, but even with increased offense, nobody could break the stalemate until 76 minutes into the game, when graduate student Caitlin Johnston ricocheted a ball off a Clark defender and into the back of the net.

Johnston, who scored twice in the Lions' comeback against Wheaton—including the game winner—tallied another game-winning goal on Saturday. She said she recognized the opportunity to end the game in regulation as soon as she got the ball.

"I just wanted to stay calm," she said. "The clock was ticking down and all I could think was, 'I'm not doing overtime right now.' I think it was just determination to get the ball in the back of the net by any means."



Photo Danny Kennedy

Soccer Pg. 8

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Emerson students apprehensive about upcoming winter, pg. 3

'A step in the right direction': Emerson students on weed pardons, pg. 4

Opinion: Affirmative Action is essential in higher education, pg. 4

'Her Loss' is our loss, pg. 7

News

Students applaud Biden marijuana pardons



Illustration Hailey Akau

Maddie Khaw
Beacon Staff

Last month, President Joe Biden pardoned thousands of people convicted of marijuana possession at the federal level. Emerson students and experts alike believe the pardon moves toward repairing the harmful effects of the war on drugs, which Biden called a “failed approach” to drug control policy, and has disproportionately incarcerated Black and brown Americans.

The pardon will not release anyone from prison, as there is no one currently in federal custody solely for simple marijuana possession, nor will it erase convictions from past records, as it’s a pardon, not an expungement.

It does, however, expand second chances for people previously convicted of simple possession, helping restore civil liberties lost due to such convictions—like the right to vote and serve on a jury—for those whose marijuana possession charge was the only felony on their record. The pardon can also revive economic and social opportunities, opening access to jobs, housing, student loans, and occupational licenses.

These benefits will only apply to the 6,500 people convicted of marijuana possession under federal law and an estimated thousands more convicted in the District of Colum-

bia—not the 3,000 others charged for higher level marijuana crimes, like distribution, who remain in federal prisons.

Despite this, “I think it’s amazing,” said Tomas Gonzalez, the chief of staff of Seed dispensary, the storefront of Boston cannabis company Core Empowerment. “It helps a small fraction of people affected and wrongly incarcerated in this country, but it’s a start. In all honesty, it’s really the first major stone thrown in the pond. I think [it] will hopefully be a domino effect for other things to move forward.”

Core Empowerment, which is owned and led by women and members of marginalized communities, is equal parts dispensary and museum, with the Core Social Justice Cannabis Museum located with the dispensary in Jamaica Plain.

The museum’s current collection, “American Warden,” aims to educate about the history and science of cannabis while urging guests to scrutinize incarceration in America against the backdrop of marijuana prohibition. It draws attention to high incarceration rates for cannabis possession and distribution, especially among Black and brown individuals.

Gonzalez noted that while the U.S. makes up about 5% of the global population, the country comprises more than 20% of the world’s prison population, incarcerating about two million people.

According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, more than 45% of the U.S. prison population is incarcerated for drug offenses. The American Civil Liberties Union reports that Black people are incarcerated for drug offenses at a rate 10 times higher than white people, despite both populations using drugs at roughly the same rates.

“From the very beginning, it’s been racist,” Gonzalez said regarding U.S. drug policy.

Senior visual and media arts major Jack Loney said he is in favor of the pardon and thinks it should be implemented at the local level.

“[Marijuana is] already legal in so many states and there’s such a huge push to legalize it nationally that, at this point, keeping people in jail for possession is just furthering the prison industrial complex, and it’s just a way to keep mostly people of color and poor people incarcerated,” Loney said.

Ryan Dominguez, executive director of CultivatED, said he thinks Biden’s pardon is “more symbolic than anything,” as its reach doesn’t extend to the thousands of people who remain incarcerated for marijuana possession within state prisons.

CultivateED is a Boston-based “jails to jobs” program that helps educate, employ, and expunge the records of people affected by the war on drugs. The program operates through the Roxbury and Holyoke community colleges and has helped 60 people expunge or seal their records and obtain employment in the local cannabis industry.

Dominguez said he thinks the pardon will help people access employment or restoration programs like CultivatED without having to navigate the “long legal process” of erasing simple possession records.

However, he noted that a first arrest for marijuana possession often leads to further legal entanglements, piling more charges onto an individual’s record. He estimated that only five to ten percent of the people in CultivatED were convicted for simple possession alone, and an even lesser number on the federal level.

For this reason, he said, many people affected by cannabis charges fall outside the realm of Biden’s pardon.

“It was more of a really good signal by President Biden and [his] administration to local, state governments to try to do it on the state and city levels,” Dominguez said. “I think that’s really where the impact is going to happen—more locally.”

Biden urged governors to follow his lead and pardon simple possession offenses on the state level. However, the governors most sympathetic to the president’s cause are “way ahead of him,” as Politico reports, with most of the 19 states that have fully legalized marijuana already having moved to issue pardons or expungements for nonviolent offenders.

In Massachusetts, where marijuana has been fully legal since 2016, former Governor Charlie Baker said he would not follow Biden’s lead in issuing pardons within the state. Rather, he pushed expungement as the simplest way to handle marijuana possession convictions, emphasizing the state’s existing legislation, which allows individuals once prosecuted for cannabis-related conduct to seek out and erase their records.

While Gonzalez was happy with Biden’s pardon, he believes Baker’s response put a damper on the announcement, reminding him of the progress yet to be made on a local level.

“I just think that was a very sad response after such a happy moment,” Gonzalez said.

However, Democratic governor-elect Maura Healey, the former Attorney General, told the Boston Globe that she would follow Biden’s request and move to issue pardons for marijuana possession.

Junior business of creative enterprises major Annabelle Polak said she thinks Biden’s pardon is a “great step in the right direction,” and believes his announcement highlights the issues of mass incarceration and marijuana criminalization regardless of whether or not further action is taken at the local level.

Polak said she couldn’t help but notice the timing, with Biden implementing the pardon roughly a month before voters took to the polls for midterm elections this past Tuesday.

“I definitely think it’s a positive thing,” Polak said. “But also, it sounds just like voter election bait.”

Sophomore journalism major Eva Levin also noted the political backdrop of Biden’s announcement.

“It’s kind of changed my perception of Biden,” Levin said. “I feel like there were a lot of promises [in his campaign] that were not fulfilled, and he’s kind of just getting them done

right now before midterms.”

Despite the fact that she found it “obvious” that Biden announced the pardon in October to get ahead of the elections in November, Levin said she’s “happy that it’s getting done, even if it’s a baby step.”

Amanda Meyers, a senior theater and performance major, recreationally uses marijuana and said it has changed her life.

“I think the way that it’s changed and expanded the ways that I think have made me a better person, have made me a better student, a better thinker, a better friend, a better citizen of America, and made me more curious about the world in ways that I wasn’t before,” Meyers said.

Legalizing marijuana is a “no brainer,” she continued, because she feels it has both scientific and medicinal value, and because its prohibition has “profusely and unnecessarily” incarcerated people of color.

“I think [cannabis] is something that should be and deserves to be explored, and not criminalized, especially when it seems like it’s really enabling racism,” Meyers said.

In addition to the pardon, Biden announced that his administration would review whether the drug should remain in the Schedule I legal category, which classifies it as a highly addictive substance unapproved for medical use, often seen at the same level as drugs like LSD and heroin.

Gonzalez and Dominguez both agree the Biden Administration should remove marijuana from the Schedule I legal category, which they said would change prohibitive banking laws and tax implications in the cannabis industry while also reducing social stigma around marijuana.

“Marijuana itself, the word and everything, has been so racialized,” Dominguez said. “I think those myths still are prevalent in our society, and for a lot of the politicians that are making these types of rules, they’re probably a lot older and come from that same line of thinking.”

Gonzalez applauded Biden’s pardon as a step towards unraveling the stigma and effects of the war on drugs.

“This country has had to confront and deal with reparations on so many different levels, and I think this is just another example,” Gonzalez said. “I just hope that this is the first step in many things that are to come, because there’s a lot of reform and work that needs to be done.”

maddie_khaw@emerson.edu

Diehl suffers defeat in governors race

lican side.”

Nationally, trends show over one million registered Democrat voters registering Republican. However, in Massachusetts, more people are registering as independents—labeled unenrolled in Massachusetts—with a nearly 200,000 person increase since October 2020.

Candidates and political figures at the event offered a beacon of hope to disheartened voters. Republican Attorney General candidate James McMahon remained fervently confident.

“We’re going to see a historic moment tonight,” McMahon said in an interview with The Beacon. “We’re going to see all those [candidates] get elected. It’s going to take a little time ... I believe I’m going to win tonight.”

The New York Times reports McMahon lost by 24.2 percent to former Boston city councilor Andrea Campbell.

John MacDonald, former Massachusetts state senate candidate, addressed Healey’s early projected victory before

introducing McMahon to the stage.

“By no stretch of the imagination is this over tonight,” MacDonald said.

He encouraged the crowd to keep the news on as they prepare for a long night ahead and “predict that [Diehl] will be victorious.”

“Do not believe [the results] until 100 percent of the vote is in,” MacDonald said at the end of his speech.

Forty minutes later, at 10:53 p.m., with just under 20 percent of the votes counted, Diehl conceded.

The “red wave” anticipated to hit Massachusetts looked to be the steady supply of red wine amongst devastated Diehl voters. As the night progressed and loss was impending, visits to the bar from both supporters and candidates were frequent. The crowd shouted “Fake news!” and booted at any mention of Healey or the press in both MacDonald and McMahon’s speeches. One woman in a Diehl hat antagonized the press, who were scattered throughout

out the space, yelling: “Fake news media!”

Voces from the crowd continuously interrupted Diehl’s speech, begging him not to concede, to which Diehl thanked his audience for the support, but asked they let him get through the speech.

“The people of the Commonwealth have spoken and I respect their choice,” Diehl said. “Though our campaign ends today, the work to create a better Massachusetts doesn’t end.”

Diehl wished the best to Governor-elect Healey.

Voters felt stuck in place after the party ended, shocked that Diehl conceded.

“I am feeling betrayed,” a passerby remarked. “I’m so sick about it.”

From the group heading toward the exit, a woman declared: “I’m moving! Florida, here I come.”

A once-passionate Diehl voter turned on the candidate quickly.

“How can he concede to that? Look

at Trump ... he never conceded to anything,” he said. “Conceding only matters when you actually lose. I don’t believe he lost.”

Rejection of Diehl’s concession does not come as a surprise from his voters. Diehl said the 2020 election was rigged in an interview with The Boston Globe—a statement that has been proven false. Diehl’s supporters, however, still remain confident that the 2020 election was stolen against incumbent President Trump.

Despite the booing from supporters who rejected Diehl’s confirmation of Healey as Massachusetts’ next governor, the governor-elect said in her winning speech she will proudly represent all Bay Staters.

“To those who voted for me and to those who didn’t, I want you to know I’ll be a governor for everyone,” Healey said.

Cont. from Pg. 1

“Republicans have strong support among independents who break toward the GOP by seven points, and only one in 10 say they’re still undecided on which party to support,” according to a PBS article from April 2022.

Supporters relied on these predictions to secure Diehl’s win. Shana Cottone, a law enforcement worker, anticipated middle-class workers to vote in favor of Diehl.

“I’m excited,” she said. “I really hope the independents come out for him.”

Others expected President Biden’s 39% approval rate to sway moderate Democrats who wanted to address inflation and crime.

“As you see more failure from the policies implemented by the left,” Hajjar said, “you’re going to see more and more people come to the Repub-

'It's the only way we can progress in society': students reflect on "fall back"

Sasha Zirin
Beacon Correspondent

Last March, the Senate unanimously approved the Sunshine Protection Act, a federal law that concretes daylight saving time as the standard year-round time in the U.S., putting an end to the twice-annual changing of clocks in the spring and fall.

The act is currently making its way through the House of Representatives, but there is no known agreement within the House at present.

Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) stated for The Hill that "There are a broad variety of opinions about whether to keep the status quo, to move to a permanent time, and if so, what time that should be."

Said to "reduce crime, encourage kids to play outside and lower the risk of heart attacks and car accidents" according to Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)'s proposal from NBC, the Sunshine Protection Act goes unsupported by sleep experts, who still support standard time over the permanence of daylight saving time.

November's "fall back"—reverting the clocks back an hour to

standard time—results in earlier sunrises and sunsets. Less sunlight later in the day leaves Yabisi Asili, a first year visual arts major, disappointed.

"If I [sleep in] on a Saturday I'll get kind of depressed sometimes because it feels like my day has gone away," Asili said.

March's "spring forward," can also be rough, due to an hour of sleep being lost.

"[Daylight saving time] doesn't seem necessary right now. It's not good for [your sleep] and takes two weeks to adjust," Asili said.

The National Institute of Medicine writes that the daylight saving spring shift has "a[n] effect of sleep loss[,] at least across the following week," and that the fall shift leads to "little evidence of extra sleep on that night, and the autumn change suggests a net loss of sleep across the week."

However, the National Institute of Medicine adds that circadian rhythms—the body's natural sleep schedule—depend on the individual, leading daylight saving to have varied effects. In their report about college students, it's written that "young adults tend to [be] 'night owls,'" and "many college students are sleep deprived."

The issue with the time change goes beyond sleep deprivation. For first-year creative writing ma-

jor Ethan Richmond, the daylight saving shifts feel needless in the modern age.

"We've kept it going because of our country's horrible addiction to tradition over common sense," he said.

According to the Smithsonian Mag, year-round daylight saving was implemented in the U.S. during World War I and World War II due to corporate interest—more daylight in the evenings lengthened working hours and reduced the need for artificial lighting. It was established permanently by former President Richard Nixon in 1974.

A press release from the office of State Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) said the motion to remove the shifts received a "very strong response" that the law would "benefit the American economy and public health," and "reduce rates of seasonal depression."

According to the National Library of Medicine, college students—especially those who had moved from warmer climates to New England for school—are at risk for seasonal depression. "Prevalence rates for [seasonal affective] and sub-[seasonal affective] combined [in college students were]... 13.2 and 19.7%, respectively," wrote NLM.

"There's definitely something

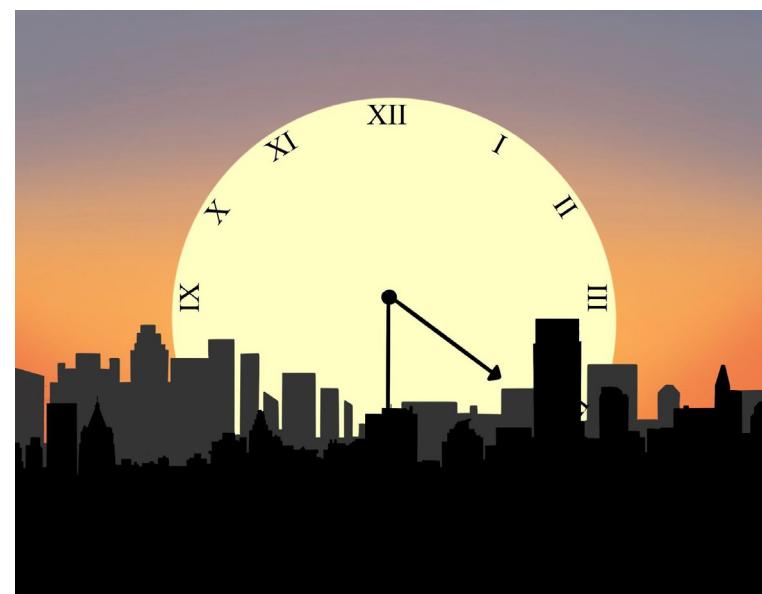


Illustration Allie Sincebaugh

[during the winter] that causes people... to have an inherent sadness," said first-year visual media arts major Aiden Cass.

Cass is from western Massachusetts and experiences the cold weather annually, which can be difficult due to less daylight to spend time outside and be active.

Asili and his friend first-year visual media arts major Cooper Rich plan to cope with the cold and seasonal depression through winter fashion, appreciating the snow, and using the time indoors to watch movies and work on projects.

"I'm so used to it, but I'm also kind of sick of it," said Rich, who is also from western Massachusetts.

Jackson Boudman, a first-year writing, literature, and publishing major, likes winter, but has never experienced it in a city—only in rural New Hampshire.

"A lot of my enjoyment of win-

ter is going out in the woods and there aren't any woods here," he said.

He also believes people have been thinking about daylight saving time incorrectly.

"I believe that [the time shifts] should be switched around," he said. "I like summer nights, and wintertime stays darker for a longer amount of time [regardless]. If we switched [the time shifts] around we'd have an equal amount of daylight all year long."

Despite this, he still supports the prospect of daylight saving being eliminated.

"We have to be open to change because it's the only way we can progress in society," he said.

contact@berkeleybeacon.com

Healey scores historic win

Cont. from Pg. 1

Healey and Driscoll were among three all-female governor-lieutenant governor tickets in the U.S.

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu thanked attendees for their support and for electing Democratic women in office. She admitted feeling worried about the election results in other states, including Arizona, Georgia, and New Hampshire, but said Massachusetts "shattered the highest glass ceiling."

"When states across the country are fighting to hold on to reproductive rights, free and fair elections, basic civil rights, Massachusetts has a special responsibility to lead," Wu said to the crowd. "Tonight, we have made our values clear. Here in Massachusetts, we have flipped the governor's seat from red to blue."

Rep. Ayanna Pressley, who won reelection in Massachusetts' 7th Congressional District, said Tuesday's victories will not go unnoticed.

"Tonight, there will be no hidden figures. Tonight, there will be no erasures," Pressley said. "History is going to get it right."

The progress in the state comes from work by women throughout generations, she added.

"Movements do not materialize from thin air," Pressley said. "Women who are Black, brown, indigenous, AAPI, disabled, and queer do not rise to the highest office out of manifest destiny... They are the results of good, old-fashioned hard work."

Former Boston City Councilor Andrea Campbell was also elected



Healey supporters Lawrence and Annemarie Kubera. / Photo Ashlyn Wang

as the state's first Black woman attorney general.

"For those who have felt unseen, this victory is for you. For those who have felt marginalized, this victory is for you. For those who have felt left out, left behind, this victory is for you," Campbell said.

Hopkinton, MA resident Kerri Connors is a volunteer for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, an organization founded by Shannon Watts with a mission to "[fight] for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence." It is a part of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country with nearly 10 million supporters.

She voiced her support for Healey and said her campaign aligned with the organization's goals to end gun violence.

"We're really lucky in Massachusetts to have the strength of the gun laws that we have, but there's always more that we can do," Connors said. "I'm hoping she can

keep that at the top of the agenda moving forward and [strengthen] our gun laws in terms of ghost guns, analyzing gun violence data, and creating sensitive places where guns aren't allowed like schools and polling places."

Although her main priority is gun violence prevention, Connors is hopeful of the progress Massachusetts is making in electing women in higher positions in office. However, she hopes one day, having women run for office will be the new norm.

"Hopefully, we will get to a point where it's not a big deal that someone is out as governor or that someone is a female and we have an all female ticket—that's not what we're discussing. But that's where we are right now, and I think it's amazing," Connors said.

Swampscott, MA resident Evelyn Oquendo Swampscott has supported Driscoll since her early days in college. Originally from Salem, MA, Oquendo attended Salem State College and was room-

mates with Driscoll. They've been friends since and Driscoll officiated Oquendo's marriage with her partner five years ago.

When Driscoll decided to run for lieutenant governor, it made Oquendo reflect on the time in college when she told Driscoll she may one day become the president of the United States.

"Her work [ethic], drive, and wanting to make a difference in communities in the towns and government just inspired me," Oquendo said. "I just looked up to her and now it's coming full circle that she could be the next lieutenant governor. I just want her to know I'm proud of her as a friend and as a constituent."

Lawrence and Annemarie Kubera, a married couple from Longmeadow, have supported Healey since they met her at an event when she ran for attorney general in 2014.

"She's a very intelligent human being," Lawrence said. "She un-

derstands the law and how the laws can change for the better."

Healey was among two openly lesbian candidates who ran to be governor in the U.S. Democrat Tina Kotek also ran for the governor's office in Oregon and is in the lead with 46.7% of the total votes as of Wednesday at 9:20 p.m.

"I stand before you tonight proud to be the first woman and the first gay person ever elected governor of Massachusetts," Healey said.

In addition to the governor's and attorney general's race, Sen. Diana DiZoglio won the race for auditor over Republican Anthony Amore. Incumbent Democratic state Treasurer Deborah Goldberg has been elected to another four-year term. In the race for secretary of the commonwealth, incumbent Democrat William Galvin defeated Republican Rayla Campbell.

hannah_nguyen@emerson.edu



Healey and Driscoll. / Photo Ashlyn Wang

Opinion

Affirmative Actions needs to stay affirmative

Rachel Choi
Beacon Staff

On Monday, Oct. 31, the Supreme Court held a hearing regarding the legality of race-conscious admission programs, more commonly known as affirmative action, through a lawsuit by the anti-affirmative action organization Students for Fair Admissions against Harvard University and the University of North Carolina.

The hearing lasted for over a grueling five hours, consisting of a tense back and forth between the conservative-majority justices and various representatives from the three organizations. It ended on a bleak note, however—the conservative justices seemed to lean towards the idea of letting affirmative action at these universities come to an end.

Affirmative action is a set of policies established by an institution to consider race and other factors—though the focus has shifted to race over the years—in admissions processes. The policies seek to provide equitable opportunity of access to higher education and to diversify student bodies. Affirmative action has been upheld by many colleges and universities across the nation, as they attempt to promote selection processes that consider the inherent disadvantages BIPOC, especially Black, students experience due to disproportionate access to a variety of resources and education.

The fact that the majority of Supreme Court justices are actively siding with the anti-affirmative action sentiment is ludicrous; you would assume the people on top of providing equal opportunity for all would understand how the lack of such policies would affect the lives of BIPOC students across the nation. Until there's a better way of addressing income disparity, unequal access to quality education, lack of resources, poverty, and a whole slew of other race-based problems perpetuated by the lack of governmental action, affir-

mative action needs to not only remain an option for institutions to implement, but should be encouraged.

Students of color are predisposed to poorer conditions that can prevent access to higher-level institutions. Many students of color live in high-poverty neighborhoods—in Massachusetts, 7.6 percent of white people live in poverty while 14.5 percent Black people, 23.4 percent Hispanic people, 9 percent Asian/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander people, and 12.4 percent American Indian/Alaska Native people live in poverty. In high-poverty neighborhoods, schools have less access to college-prep courses or even the expected amount of math and science courses taken in public schools elsewhere. Affirmative action takes these disadvantages into account; it's a policy that gives these students a chance to enter tertiary education.

Because many states acknowledge this fact, affirmative action is legally allowed to be implemented within colleges and universities across the board aside from nine states including Michigan and California. Although there is plenty of debate surrounding the policy, affirmative action has historically yielded favorable results through the diversity it brings. Meeting, living, and conversing with people of all different backgrounds exposes students to new perspectives and ideas about the world. This socialization improves students' intellectual engagement, performance, and even their leadership skills. Solicitor General Elizabeth B. Prelogar put it best during the hearing: "When students of all races and backgrounds come to college, they become better colleagues, better citizens, and better leaders."

Affirmative action also encourages students to be more daring and apply to more prestigious institutions. Diverse student bodies are proof to prospective students that they will find their place in an institution that may seem daunting. The fear of experiencing additional discrimination

in a white-dominated campus can deter BIPOC students from applying to certain colleges. I know first-hand how uncomfortable it is being the only person of color in a class full of white people. Feelings of loneliness can discourage meaningful interactions and stunt the potential for learning through unspoken isolation.

Diversity in higher education also promotes social mobility, working to break the invisible barrier of society and helping the rigid structure of class become more malleable. Subsequently, positions of leadership and prestige become more open to those from lower-class backgrounds.

The fact that the Court showed so

ing she had been denied admission on the basis of race. In doing so, Barbara Grutter argued the university had violated the Fourteenth Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Court's decision was a commendable one. It upheld its previous ruling which allowed race to be considered—but racial quotas unconstitutional—in admission. It became loud and clear that the U.S. was going to move forward to try and be the land of opportunity it so desperately wanted to be. Unfortunately, this attempt is now being challenged by a group of people who are unwilling to see how ending affirmative action would negatively affect



Illustration Rachel Choi

much willingness to side with Students for Fair Admissions and end affirmative action despite the proven effectiveness and benefits diversity brings for students of all races was nothing short of alarming. Suffice to say, last Monday's hearing was one small step backward for man and one giant leap backward for mankind.

This is not the first time affirmative action has been debated in the Supreme Court. The most notable hearing occurred on April 1, 2003 during Grutter vs. Bollinger. The case was heard in court after a prospective white student sued the University of Michigan Law School, argu-

students across the country, and actively move the fight against entrenched racial inequity back in time instead of forward.

It's undoubtedly true that affirmative action, despite its many benefits, also has problems. The fact that race is considered in admission criteria can sometimes play right into the stigma that minorities are only getting in due to the color of their skin—a stigma many white people hold against minorities entering elite institutions. It also introduces the proposal of reverse discrimination, a term describing the practice of favoring individuals belonging to groups previously discriminated against

like in the case of Grutter vs. Bollinger, and can further create tension between the majority and minority. However, despite these problems, institutions need to consider alternative options for promoting racial diversity and equity.

Why? Well, here comes the real kicker: There really aren't any alternative options.

There is no alternative way to effectively increase diversity while maintaining a completely, bias-free selection process in the U.S. as of yet. Without affirmative action, diversity has already proven to plummet. In the case of the campuses of California State University, Black students enrolled in 2018 were half that of '97—a mere four percent. At the University of Michigan, after race-conscious admissions were banned, there was a sharp decline of Black and Native American student enrollment. The percentages of Black students dropped to four percent from seven percent, while Native American enrollment dropped to 0.11 percent from one percent.

There really is no other method of diversifying campuses without considering race at this point in our country's history. It's an unfortunate reality of America's education system and society as a whole—racial inequalities persist and have persisted over centuries. White people naturally have the higher ground, with the most access to income and resources to help them succeed in life. Thanks to the history of segregation and discrimination, minorities are significantly more disadvantaged, no matter how hard they work.

Until this country offers true equal opportunity for all—or until there are new methods found to increase diversity without considering a holistic approach that includes race—affirmative action is the only way to truly reflect diversity.

rachel_choi@emerson.edu

Meditated so hard my ass cracked: Buddhism is not islamophobic

Bryan Liu
Beacon Staff

Siddhartha Gautama grew up in luxury within the walls of his opulent palace. When he went outside and saw poverty, disease, and old age for the first time, he decided existence is pain and understood the true meaning of life: suffering. What a diva. I would've just stayed inside.

Buddhism began in India with Gautama's epiphany. After attaining enlightenment, Gautama and his disciples spread the practice Eastward, in a sort of reverse Manifest Destiny. Buddhist variations and offshoots were created when locals combined Buddhist teachings, or Dharma, with their own traditions. For example, Chan Buddhism merged Buddhism with Chinese culture—namely Confucian and Taoist perspectives which discuss how we can benefit each other by living in the moment.

But by the time Buddhism reached the U.S. via California, the Western world had reduced Dharma to yoga, beatnik literature, Hollywood, and the Dalai Lama's Twitter feed.

Last summer I volunteered as a camp counselor and student at Dharma Drum Retreat Center in upstate New York. I went mostly because I romanticized the beatniks. I was also bored. Venerable Guo Huei Fa Shi explained the fundamentals of Chan to me. 'Fa Shi' is a term of endearment we use for monks, meaning someone who abandoned their past life to teach Buddhism and maintain an ascetic lifestyle.

"Dharma exists in the world, enlightenment is not apart from the world. To search for enlightenment apart from the world, is like looking for horns on a rabbit," Fa Shi explained, quoting the Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch. Bars. The most convoluted way to say "study Dharma and you will find enlightenment." Chan practice emphasizes living in knowledge of our inherent? Impermanence: our true selves can only exist in

the present. Obsessing over one's past or future is disingenuous to our true selves because we ignore who we truly are in the moment.

Buddhism demands more than its current mainstream niche of pop psychology.

Let me set some records straight: there is no 'god' in Buddhism. We don't worship Buddha; we follow his example. Sangha is the community of students and teachers. Dharma is the scripture—or the curriculum—we study. Buddhism doesn't exist in a specific environment; it is created in practice. Self-mastery is achieved through meditation and introspection.

I suck at meditation. Fa Shi once told me I have a "weak ass" because I'd always complain my legs were falling asleep after sitting in lotus position for only a few minutes.

And what is self-mastery beyond completing "no-nut November?" Self-mastery has a lot to do with managing Dukkha, or dissatisfaction. Existence is only suffering because we are trapped in a perpetual state of desire. The satisfaction that comes from getting something we want is temporary and we will inevitably return to dissatisfaction because wanting more is a vicious cycle. The end of craving is the end of suffering. Like Fa Shi says, "let go or be dragged."

Then there's the fat Buddha, or laughing Buddha. A figure many misconstrue for the true Buddha. He's actually the 10th century monk Budai—a Chan buddhist icon. Many regard him as Maitreya, or the second coming of Buddha. There's one every kalpa. The fuck's a kalpa?

Gautama Buddha defines a kalpa as the amount of time it takes a man to wipe down a mountain with a silk cloth once every century until the mountain is reduced to the size of a mustard seed. Bars. A kalpa is a long ass unit of time Buddhists use to measure cosmology.

But, like most facets of Asian culture, Buddhism has been commodified by

Western influence.

In the Cold War era, Buddhism was greatly tied to national identity in Southeast Asia—especially in countries like Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam where most citizens were predominantly Buddhist. But at the time, religions like Buddhism had no place in the Soviet Union's communist agenda. Nixon was inspired by the Foundation for Religious Action to launch a "Spiritual Counteroffensive in Southeast Asia" during the Vietnam War: revitalizing the capitalist campaign under the allure of faith.

In regards to how the Iron Curtain had bisected Europe, Politico reporter Joe Freeman likens the United States' religious warfare tactic to "a Saffron Curtain"—an anti-communist Buddhist block that subdivided Southeast Asia. The principle of Ahimsa, or non-violence, is one of Buddhism's central tenets—at its nature, Buddhism is a peaceful practice. But under the advent of modernity, Buddhism was weaponized.

Southeast Asia in the 1950s was so ripe with religious homogeneity that Buddhism became a point of ethnic pride. Because the United States sponsored Buddhist institutions to be anti-communist, Buddhists were quick to ostracize those who weren't ethnically Buddhist.

We did not foster fear of communism, we championed a fear of the other. I'm not excusing our appropriation of Buddhism, but coming to terms with religious warfare is critical to understanding today's geopolitics.

Nowadays in Myanmar, nationalist

monks are perpetrating the Rohingya Muslim genocide. In Thailand, the Buddhists have militarized against the Malay Muslim population in the South. And in Sri Lanka, the Buddhist Sinhalese have been embroiled in a contentious civil war between the Tamil minority for decades. The ethnic cleansing today is akin to the Cold War practice of preserving religious homogeneity. In the process we ignore the present state of Buddhism in Southeast Asia: Facism.

It's notable to point out how the U.S. and the former anti-communist Buddhist bloc both had overlapping Islamophobia phases at the same time: post 9/11. But what is Islamophobia if not fear of the other?

During the Cold War, the U.S. established a nationalist religious precedent for these Asian countries—you're either Buddhist or you're a traitor. The Buddhist

majorities in these countries felt threatened by Muslim communities, blaming them for political issues and social unrest.

My experience with Buddhism is anything but violent, political, or islamophobic. My summer at the mountain was full of vegetarian cooking, meditation workshops with kids, and late night discussions about Dharma. The geo-political Buddhist clusterfuck in Southeast Asia contrasts Dukkha, desire. Political extremism is a greedy practice in nature and it's no wonder that ethnic cleansing in the name of preserving religious purity will lead to dissatisfaction. It reminds me of the Platform Sutra: we cannot reclaim our religious narrative in the present if we are much too embroiled in foreign intervention from the past.

Maybe Myanmar needs to meditate.

bryan_liu@emerson.edu

Tyler Foy (Sports)

Advisor
James Sullivan

(617) 824-8687
berkeleybeacon.com
contact@berkeleybeacon.com

© 2022 The Berkeley Beacon. All rights reserved.

The Beacon is published weekly. Anything submitted to the Beacon becomes the sole property of the newspaper. No part of the publication may be reproduced by any means without the express written permission of the editor.

Editor-in-Chief
Vivi Smilgius

Managing Editors
Mariyam Quaisar (Content)
Frankie Rowley (Content)
Shannon Garrido (Multimedia)

Section Editors
Adri Pray (News)
Hadera McKay (Opinion)
Sophia Pargas (Living Arts)

Republican candidates appear soft on abortion in a Post-Roe election season — don't trust them.

Megan Richards
Beacon Staff

The morning Roe V. Wade was overturned, a thick silence hung in the air. Everything felt surprisingly small at the moment, but bigger than the human brain could feasibly comprehend. It was both overwhelming and as if the world came to a halt.

Concerns were raised immediately about the subsequent actions pro-life politicians would take. In some states, trigger bans went into effect, ranging from militant-Handmaids-tale total bans to exceptions for rape, incest, and situations when the life of the mother or baby is endangered. People feared the worst was yet to come with the impending midterm elections and how Republican candidates planned to further restrict abortion, should they be elected. It was anticipated that abortion would take center stage in the fall all along—but it did so in the most unexpected way.

Georgia, a previously red state now turned swing, is a prime example of how Republicans are shying away from strict abortion stances. Incumbent Gov. Brian Kemp supported the Heartbeat Bill that went into effect in July, effectively banning abortion at the first detection of a heartbeat, which can be as early as 6 weeks. Now, he refuses to answer questions regarding potential restrictions he'd impose if re-elected. The reason for this, he has said, is because he does not want to talk about legislation that does not exist yet.

He's also come to the defense of Herschel Walker, Georgia's Republican Senate candidate, who was accused of paying for the abortions of two women. Walker is on the record as previously saying he would support a total ban without exception for rape, incest, or threat of life. In his most recent debate, however, he denied ever making such statements, saying he solely supports whatever legislation currently exists in Georgia.

Similar sentiment is expressed by Republican Joe Lombardo, who is running for governor of Nevada. Instead of answering questions on how he'd restrict abortion further as a pro-life governor, he's maintained that he supports the current abortion law, which allows abortion for up to 24 weeks of pregnancy and makes exception for endangerment of life. He said in the gubernatorial debate that the issue has no place in politics, but he'd support a voter referendum to restrict it further. He previously advocated for a 13-week ban with exceptions for rape, incest, and threat to life, but

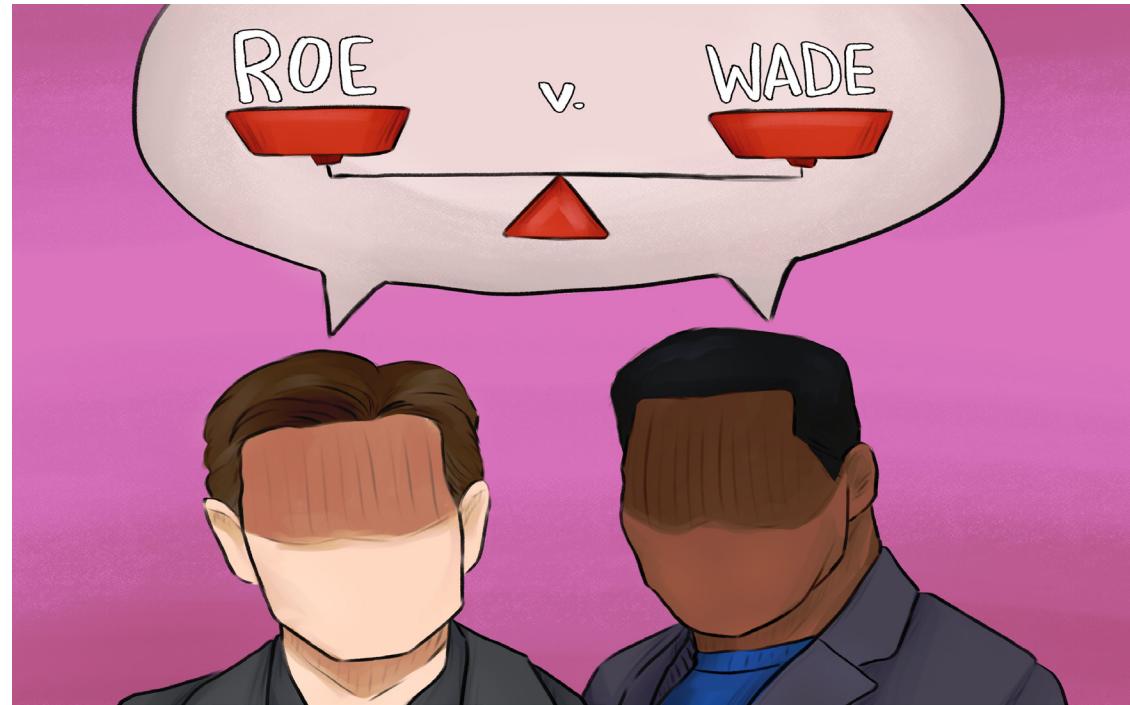


Illustration Rachel Choi

now says he supports the current law notwithstanding his personal views.

Christine Drazan, who is the Republican running for governor of Oregon, has taken a stance akin to Kemp's, saying she will not comment on legislation that has not yet reached her desk. She expressed that she herself is pro-life, but pro-choice laws are embedded in the state's statute and she will abide by that as governor. Her statements were like-minded to that of Lombardo, saying she will support the state's current laws on abortion regardless of her personal beliefs.

Finally, Dr. Mehmet Oz, the Republican who ran for Senate and lost in Pennsylvania, said most recently the decision regarding legislation on abortion should be one led by women, doctors, and local political leaders. He reiterated several times his opposition to a national ban on abortion, citing that the federal government should have no involvement on the issue. Though this is a stance he's maintained throughout his campaign, it is still notably moderate.

The primary concerns are clear: Why is the pro-life party suddenly so unenthusiastic about restricting abortion if this is what it's been campaigning on for years? Why have nearly all Republican candidates removed actual proposals for restrictive legislation from their platforms and replaced it with a simple "I am pro-life" statement?

This shift could be accredited to many things, namely the examples

given in swing states where opponents were neck-and-neck this election. It benefits both sides to appear more moderate in these kinds of races, which Democrats are doing, too. According to FiveThirtyEight's Galen Druke, a Supreme Court precedent being overturned could also be to blame for such a drastic change in the political landscape.

"The fact that we're even seeing a competitive race for the Senate is proof that abortion has shifted the landscape," Druke said. "In polls, voters support the status quo of Roe V. Wade. When candidates go out and say 'we want to restrict abortion beyond what Roe V. Wade would've done,' that can sometimes make them unpopular, even if abortion isn't your number one issue as a voter."

As Republicans have sensed the importance abortion has to voters this season, it seems they've shifted their stance to align with the general population. In an interview with The Guardian, Republican strategist Barret Mason spoke to why Republicans are taking this angle:

"Over the years, it's been OK to advocate for the strictest abortion regulations in a Republican primary because abortion generally was protected by Roe v Wade. Now it's no longer theoretical. So now the most restrictive policies have real-life consequences."

It seems the GOP woke up to how the staunch, chauvinist extremism that occupied the White House from 2016-2020 is no longer a viable way to gar-

ner support. According to a recent NBC news poll, 62 percent of Republican voters identify themselves as supporters of the party rather than former President Donald Trump. This could very well be because his increasingly alarming antics throughout his four years in office—as well as his recent subpoena—effectively ostracized him from the party. His politics polarized and divided the country in a way many Americans did not anticipate, and that may have scared away the moderate section of the electorate.

Such politics have resulted in some Republicans making an effort to separate themselves from Trump to win their elections. This worked in the case of Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who beat Former Gov. Terry McCauliffe in Virginia last year. Youngkin did not accept Trump's endorsement and ran on a mostly moderate, non-inflammatory platform. However, his landslide victory is a cautionary tale that proves just because these Republican candidates are not saying they'll restrict abortions further doesn't mean they won't once they are sworn in. His campaign strategies are a direct insight into the promises Republicans are making and why they can't be trusted.

Youngkin ran on issues that were generally hard to disagree with, like lowering gasoline prices and grocery store taxes. At the center of his campaign was the promise to include parents in their children's education—pretty non-partisan, right? His opponent,

former Gov. Terry McCauliffe, was not someone who the electorate was enthused about. He didn't do much as governor and Democratic voters wanted someone younger, fresher, and less of a white male.

What sealed the deal was a three-second sound-bite—taken out of context—wherein McCauliffe said he doesn't believe parents should have a say in their children's education. At this point in the game, Youngkin became a shoo-in. He gained the support of suburban white women and moderates who otherwise might have voted Democrat, yet tread lightly by separating himself from Trump so as to not scare off either end of the political spectrum. Within a year of taking office, he proved himself to be a wolf in sheep's clothing, proposing this fall legislation that would require parental consent for students to be referred to by their preferred pronouns and name in classrooms, and setting up a tip line to report teachers who taught Critical Race Theory—which, by his definition, is any material that mentions race.

Youngkin's trajectory is a warning not to trust this supposedly moderate new wave of Republican pro-life views. The candidates who dodged questions of abortion restrictions or refused to speak on legislation that did not exist yet will throw all their lukewarm talking points out the window when it comes time to sign. Some of them might even slap on some liberal pro-choice arguments to appear more moderate, such as saying the issue has no place in politics. The bottom line is these statements were only ever meant to pacify voters and seem less partisan. Youngkin's extremist views on transgender students came as a surprise to many Virginians due to his moderate platform in last year's election season, and Republicans appear to be following the same playbook to avoid scaring off potential moderate voters with ultra-conservative, polarizing Trumpism.

The decision to approach abortion moderately is a deliberate attempt to appeal to a broader demographic for Republicans, but the rug will be pulled out from under voters' feet should they trust the GOP on this issue. It's important to remember the GOP is still the party of Trump. He has all but announced his candidacy for president in 2024, and when he's on the ticket, he'll have the same letter next to his name as these seemingly-innocent, tactfully subtle pro-life party members.

megan_richards@emerson.edu

Is Kyrie Irving worth keeping?

Aidan Crooke
Beacon Correspondent

If you're the Brooklyn Nets' general manager Sean Marks, you've likely got a lot on your plate right now. You've fired Head Coach Steve Nash and promoted Jacque Vaughn in his place, two of your top players have decided to stay with the team despite levying trade requests in the offseason, and now one of those two players—Kyrie Irving—has drawn a spotlight for all the wrong reasons.

In the wake of Ye's recent anti-semitic comments, Irving tweeted a now-deleted tweet which linked to an anti-semitic film. According to the New York Times, the 2018 film relies on anti-semitic tropes about Jewish people lying about their origins and denying the Holocaust.

This wouldn't be the first time Irving has faced controversy during his time with the Nets. In September, ESPN's Nick Friedell reported that the Nets All-Star guard turned down a four-year, \$100 million extension due to his unvaccinated status. This affected his availability in Brooklyn over the past two seasons due to New York City regulations on vaccinations in arenas such as Madison Square



Courtesy Creative Commons

rights violations" while still being optional is a slap in the face to people who have lived through actual human rights violations—especially those who lost their lives in these violations.

Irving chose to remain unvaccinated and faced consequences—he couldn't

play at the Barclays Center or Madison Square Garden. There are still 30 other venues that allowed him to play while their city's mandates were in effect, including Chase Center in San Francisco and Boston's TD Garden. That's a lot of games Irving could still play, and each one could have helped him make a boatload of money to fulfill his commitment to the team.

Irving has faced many consequences for his anti-semitic comments, including the suspension of his signature shoe deal with Nike. Nike also pulled his latest signature shoe model, the Kyrie 8, from a release date as a result of his insensitive and damaging remarks. The price he's paid? According to the British Broadcasting Corporation, his deal with Nike is worth \$11 million a year. If combined with his Nets' contract value, Irving's already out \$12 million a year, as his suspension from the Nets would cost him \$1.25 million over the course of five games.

Two days after his antisemitic tweet, the Nets played the Chicago Bulls, where Irving's performance was significantly less than what is expected of a former champion and perennial All-Star candidate. From Oct. 21 to Oct. 31, Kyrie was

a guaranteed 25-point scorer. On Nov. 1 against the Bulls, he scored only four points on two for 12 overall shooting and missed all six of his shots from three-point range in his 33 minutes of play. Irving has missed the last three games as a result of his suspension from the team.

Irving is in his contract year with the Nets. He didn't sign the aforementioned contract extension with the Nets due to his unvaccinated status, and now it seems his recent acts will harm his potential in the free agency market. Some teams are looking for a point guard to build around, but it's unreasonable to believe any general manager in the league would consider picking up the phone to call Irving.

The level of bad press Irving brought on himself is his own fault, and it's hard to see whether his apology and remediation process for his suspension will actually result in a change. This isn't just a suspension or a simple short-term consequence of Irving's actions, it's a reminder to everyone—especially athletes with a platform on social media: be mindful of what you post and what the consequences could be. It could cost you your career.

aidan_crooke@emerson.edu

Living Arts

Armored Storyteller brings new purpose to role-player gaming

Gabel Strickland
Beacon Staff

Zombie hoards. Aliens. Plagues. All of this and more can be found in games created by Armored Storyteller, a role-playing game (RPG) publishing company that highlights RPGs as a medium to explore the storytelling and theatrics Emerson students know and love, as well as the moral questions that make us human.

Armored Storyteller was co-created by Emerson alum Dean Leonard and his childhood friend John Brennan. Brennan and Leonard became friends in childhood, sharing a passion for tabletop RPGs that lasted long into their adult lives and eventually inspired the creation of Armored Storyteller in June.

Armored Storyteller specializes in RPGs—games in which players assume the roles of imaginary characters and engage in improvised fictional adventures directed by a gamemaster—which can be played online or around a table. “Dungeons & Dragons” is probably the most popular example of a tabletop RPG. These games come with manuals instructing the players on the rules, settings, and characters available throughout the game session.

Armored Storyteller publishes gaming handbooks reminiscent of these original D&D manuals, using the same mechanics to tell unique and original stories. Armored Storyteller games specialize in the genres of dystopia, sci-fi, and horror, trading out elves and clerics for zombies and medic scouts. Their latest release, “Dead Men Walking,” places its players in the throes of a zombie apocalypse.

John Brennan acts as founder and president while Deon Leonard is co-founder and creative lead. This means that while Brennan brings a knowledge of the publishing indus-



Courtesy John Brennan and Dean Leonard

try and product management at the table, much of the storytelling is done by Leonard, who crafts unique characters and settings.

Leonard explains an Emerson creative writing professor helped him find his voice as a creative: gritty and brutally honest, which translates to a love of dark fantasy and surrealism.

“[My professor] looked at me and he said ‘You, you really like Ernest Hemingway,’ and I was like ‘Yeah, I do’ and he said ‘Well, I can see it in your writing. Stop. Find your own voice,’” Leonard said. “I took that to heart and so I try my best now to write in my own voice... he was very impactful in my thinking about writing.”

Leonard isn’t the only Emerson student—former or current—who is a fan of these games. It’s a popular pastime for many students. The Level Up Guild is a popular Emerson student organization dedicated to

providing community and resources to students who enjoy RPGs and other interactive games. Leonard isn’t surprised this is the case, as RPGs provide an outlet to practice the storytelling many students come to Emerson to study. Leonard said it is the same love of storytelling cultivated by games like D&D that inspired him to apply to Emerson as a creative writing major.

“I’ve been gaming since I was almost 12 years old,” he said. “My dad got me the first basic Dungeons & Dragons box set and I was hooked because I love to read, but I like movies as well, and the idea of creating a living movie or a living book where you don’t know the ending because it’s all [based on] the player interactions... I found that fascinating.”

Brennan suggests the acting and improvisational component of RPGs could also be a big draw for many Emerson students who love to per-

form as well as tell stories.

“Dungeons & Dragons, or any of the role playing games where you sit around the table (or if you sit around the virtual table) it’s entirely improv, right? So the storyteller is every other character in the world besides you and the game players that you’re with,” Brennan said. “And so I can understand why people at Emerson who are often in acting or in performance of some kind would be attracted to these types of games, because it exercises all of those muscles all of the time in a very safe place.”

One thing Leonard and Brennan always loved about RPGs is their ability to bring people together. Being creative with your friends is a big part of what makes these games fun.

Armored Storyteller takes this a step further by introducing high, morbid stakes into their games. One reason Brennan and Leonard love the darker genres is because it’s a chance to see how players come together, especially in the face of extremely grim obstacles that force cooperation and amplify unity amongst players.

“We do enjoy the question of moral ambiguity. There’s a system in the game where Dean will write the story that the characters have to make certain decisions,” Brennan said. “It’s a moral decision that will present itself to the characters. It’s usually about working together... That premise is baked into the games almost entirely.”

The grim obstacles characteristic of Armored Storyteller’s chosen genres don’t just bring people together; they test their morality and expose how gray the world is. These challenges give Brennan and Leonard an outlet to explore ethical complexity in their characters and stories.

“I do enjoy the experience of

seeing how people make decisions when they’re confronted with a dangerous situation,” Leonard said. “What do they do with their characters? How are they going to interact with what we call the NPCs [Non-Playable character], the characters in the fictional world?”

Armored Storyteller’s games are an outlet to explore both creativity and philosophy in the same space, however, they are designed to be customizable to the players’ tastes. This allows the game to be both serious and silly, and the players can adapt that ratio depending on what they want for their session and friend group. However, as Leonard explains, engaging with the moral concepts addressed in the game can be one of the most compelling parts of the game.

If you’re familiar with ‘The Walking Dead,’ for example, you see characters who start off as villains and then become morally ambiguous and then you actually find they may be at least antiheroes,” Leonard said. “I think if you’re not using that type of content in this game, you’re missing out on a beautiful dynamic.”

In a world with so much despair, hope is essential to illuminate the path forward for the players. Teamwork and hope work in tandem to bring the group through the game, which is a larger lesson to the players.

I want [the players] to find a cure. I want them to rebuild civilization. I want them to build a better one,” Leonard said. “After everything’s gone to complete hell, I want the players to feel a sense of triumph that we overcame the worst possible circumstances when things looked the bleakest. When you’re on that edge of despair, cling to hope and you achieve success.”

babel.strickland@emerson.edu

Junior skyrockets to success in marketing

Cont. from Pg. 1

Many of Hansen’s shirts evoke humor through their subject matter—one can’t help but giggle at a dapper blobfish wearing half a hockey mask or a Planter’s style cannibal peanut who “eats the rich.” Hansen’s designs are in part influenced by his own style: a blend of irony and sincerity.

“There’s camp, and a little bit of artisanal gaudiness in what I wear and what I do,” Hansen said. “Not offensive, but I tend to go for the more colorful options while still trying to have some level of taste. Let’s call it snappy. Somewhere between country club and novelty.”

In addition to his custom lines available for purchase on the site, Hansen commissions merchandise for projects, organizations, and campaigns.

Katie Sirowich, a computer science major at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and hometown friend of Hansen’s, commissioned a new merchandise design for the Keynotes that would be more than just their logo.

“A lot of logos and graphic design lately [have] stuck with that modernized, simple, and honestly kinda lifeless vibe,” Sirowich said. “Apollo has much more creative, artistic, and unique designs

that I think are great for people looking for something more expressive.”

Hansen frequently collaborates with clients inside and outside the Emerson bubble, for both small projects like the Keynotes collab, and bigger ones. For the past two years, he has maintained a working relationship with the James Vick Foundation, a non-profit organization that offers free sports programming to young people in local communities.

“My first big break was back in March of 2020 with the James Vick Foundation,” Hansen said. “I already did a few posters for them, but they wanted me as an independent contractor. They wanted me on payroll.”

Christian Vick, CEO of the James Vick Foundation, was introduced via one of Hansen’s high school teachers, who recommended Hansen on account of his graphic design talent.

“Christian was looking for a total redesign of his website as it was very Web 1.0, very antiquated,” Hansen said. “I did the total redesign and after that I kept doing posters and promotional material for them. [I] really enjoyed doing it; I’ve been doing that for quite some time now.”

Vick said the James Vick Foundation’s online presence has since expanded with help from Han-

sen’s marketing.

“[Robert] gave us a digital angle that we didn’t have before,” said Vick. “Other organizations may have more money than us... but we’re destroying them on social media. The way we market ourselves, it looks like we have 50,000 kids. And that’s what Robert brought to the fair for us.”

Hansen’s talent is not the only impression left during his time at the James Vick Foundation. Vick holds him in high regard, impressed by the character he has shown in his short time working at the organization.

“[Robert] doesn’t give me grief,” Hansen said. “He’s selfless, he’s creative. He has the ability to be a self-starter. I’ll give him an assignment and he’ll come up with ideas while he’s doing it... He’s very respectful, but I always found him to be extremely innovative.”

In addition to coordinating marketing campaigns for the EVVY awards this year, Hansen is preparing for his first independent film shoot of “Chow!” in the summer. Hansen wrote, directed, and produced “Chow!” outside of EIV as a passion project, and designing merchandise for the film legitimized his vision.

“I wanted [Chow!] to have the air of something proper that felt tangible and real,” Hansen said.



Courtesy Robert Hansen

“I wanted it to have a bit of professionalism to it—merchandise makes that possible.”

All proceeds from merchandise sales go to development. Hansen’s clothing line has always been a personal creative outlet, not a cash grab.

“I would never mass produce shirts because I have no idea of what I’m going to sell before I sell them,” Hansen said. “Sales... come in waves. There have been

months where I haven’t been selling items. And that’s okay, because at this point I’m doing it for myself to build an image so when I leave Emerson I can pursue more of my career.”

Marketing exposes Hansen to different fields and lets him work in different businesses. Hansen considers his interactions with other creative types to be the most invaluable part of his work.

“Everyone in our Emerson bubble right now is all about networking,” Hansen said. “That’s what I’m doing too [by] trying to have enough in my backlog and enough accolades and experience that I can justify selling vanity plates like my merch.”

Hansen understands the unifying properties of merchandise and how to market them. His products ultimately reflect a stylistic middle ground between him and the consumer.

“Our generation is in a very dense attention economy, and I don’t want [designs] to be invasive, but I want people to notice things that I think are worthwhile,” Hansen said. “Every design is sort of an inside joke that I want to make everyone who buys it feel like they’re a part of.”

bryan_liu@emerson.edu

'Her Loss' didn't live up to its potential

Vivi Smilgus
Beacon Staff

On Friday, Nov. 4, rappers Drake and 21 Savage dropped the 16-track project "Her Loss," produced under Drake's record label, OVO Sound.

The two have teamed up for a handful of projects before this one, most recently on "Jimmy Cooks," the standout rap song on Drake's most recent—and unexpectedly, dance—album, "Honestly, Nevermind." Other notable collaborations between Drake and Savage are "Knife Talk," "Mr. Right Now," and "Sneakin'."

Their new album offered another promising crossover between Savage's gangsta rap and Drake's pop rap, but throwaway disses and unrefined production resulted in a lackluster project that left listeners wanting more—specifically, more 21 Savage.

Despite being a collaborative album, "Her Loss" sounds like a Drake album with a handful of Savage features. The two seem to gel on tracks like "On BS," "Major Distribution,"—which quickly emerged as a fan favorite—and "Spin Bout U," but their chemistry feels forced on tracks like "Hours In Silence," a near-ballad dominated by Drake.

For many, "Her Loss" is Drake's welcome return to hip-hop after a brief detour in the dance genre with "Honestly, Nevermind." Thematically, "Her Loss" feels like the whiny younger sibling of "Certified Lover Boy." The final track, "I Guess It's F**k Me," borders on groveling as Drake begs someone to "Tell me, what did I do wrong?"

The songwriting throughout the album feels one-dimensional, and not in an easy-listening way. One bar from "Spin Bout U" reads as if written to blow up on TikTok: "four words when I think about

them is crusty, dusty, musty, rusty / eight words when I think about us is f**k me, f**k me, f**k me, f**k me." The sound has, in fact, ascended to TikTok fame in the days since the album release.

More alarming than the album's lack of depth is its only true feature—aside from taglines and adlibs from rappers Lil Yachty and Young Nudy—which comes from rapper Travis Scott on "P***y & Millions." Scott has slowly but

singing on his own verse before taking a bite of the final chorus.

As the second-most prominent voice on the album, Savage saves tracks like "Rich Flex," "Broke Boys," and "More M's" with his standout features. However, his presence is sorely missed on others like "BackOutsideBoyz." His deep voice and Atlanta drawl provide necessary contrast to Drake's almost-shrill chest voice, and listeners begin to feel the lack of

from the mix, creating an awkward-at-best overlap of sounds.

"Her Loss" seems like 36-year-old Drake's attempt to stay relevant among younger rappers and fans. His insecurities show through in "Circo Loco," where he disses rapper Megan Thee Stallion by alleging she lied about being shot by rapper Tory Lanez in 2020. Stallion fired off a series of tweets in response to the song, saying "when the mf facts come out re-

which resulted in the former's legendary diss track "Back to Back." Drake's misogynistic cheap shot towards Stallion feels like he's grasping at straws.

With help from—but not solely because of—his recent release, Drake has become entirely meme-worthy. He's now the subject of TikToks and tweets mocking his verse on "Rich Flex," in which he begs Savage to "do somethin' for me" while Savage ad-libs quietly in the background. It might be more in Drake's favor to play into this new form of attention rather than attempt to save his masculinity with digs at this generation's beloved female rappers.

"Her Loss" tucks itself to the end of Drake's downward spiral. The rapper's freshman and sophomore albums remain his highest-rated on Pitchfork, and everything that followed has contributed to his steady decline. His most recent works—"Certified Lover Boy" and "Honestly, Nevermind"—both tallied a 6.6/10 rating, falling a full two points below his debut album, "Take Care." "Her Loss" ranked a predictable 6.4/10, solidifying his downfall.

From its bars to its production, the project feels a bit rushed and generally overwhelming. "Her Loss" never establishes itself in any subgenre of rap, dipping its toe in trap and pop rap without ever picking a side. Instead of experimental, it feels wishy-washy, playing as a compilation of collaborations more than a cohesive project. With a few more months in the studio refining the album's sound and perfecting the balance between Drake and Savage, it could have been a project worth waiting for.

vivi_smilgus@emerson.edu



Illustration Rachel Choi

steadily re-established his presence in the hip-hop community after 10 people died at his under-regulated Astroworld festival last year, and his presence on albums like "Her Loss" confirms he is escaping the consequences of his inaction. Scott employs his classic autotune, rapping and

Savage as Drake's verses drag on. While Savage fans clearly received the album well—four of Savage's current top five "popular" tracks on Spotify come from this recent project—the majority of "Her Loss" caters to Drake's pop rap and alienates Savage's classic trap and hardcore styles

member all y'all h** a** favorite rappers stood behind [someone] that SHOT A FEMALE."

Drake's diss is not only chauvinistic and unnecessary, but poorly-executed. In the 2010s, the rapper proved his ability to beef, as exemplified through his years-long feud with rapper Meek Mill,

Mental health meets music in Selena Gomez documentary

Clara Faulkner
Beacon Staff

After much anticipation, Selena Gomez's documentary *My Mind and Me* premiered on AppleTV+ on Nov. 4. The documentary chronicles six years of Selena Gomez's life and presents the pop icon in an authentic and unvarnished light, giving the audience a fresh and empathetic perspective. Rather than appearing as a conventional documentary, *My Mind and Me* is a deep-dive interaction with the artist.

Because of the documentary, my admiration for Gomez has only grown. It was heartening to see a prominent public figure in the era of social media bring attention to issues of mental health and methods of dealing with anxiety. The documentary is the virtual equivalent of Gomez hugging her fans, and it has sparked meaningful dialogue across all forms of media.

Alek Keshishian, Selena's longtime colleague and the director of the music video for her breakthrough single "Hands to Myself," helms the documentary. After seeing Keshishian's work on the 1991 Madonna documentary *Truth or Dare*, Gomez says she was determined to employ him to capture the tough times during her life.

The documentary follows Gomez's journey of growth after leaving a mental health institution. She is eager to assist others and has mounting ambitions, and is "constantly searching for something her mind cannot see." Gomez narrates her comeback to the mainstream after a prolonged hiatus, when she was still searching for her identity.

The documentary's excellence can be directly attributed to the adversity Gomez faced during its making. It demonstrates that she is not so much discarding her history but rather facing it head on. Early on, Keshishian captures Gomez's philanthropy in Kenya, revealing the unseen side of

her fame.

Due to Gomez's diagnoses of lupus and bipolar disorder, as well as the premature end to her Revival Tour after 55 performances, the filming of the highly-anticipated documentary stretched six years. After being hospitalized for lupus and mental health, Gomez did not know when or how to come back to the music world. Before she could produce songs or perform on stage, she had to recover both physically and psychologically.

Gomez reveals an endearingly fresh part of her persona by letting her guard down. Although she has been through a lot in the past six years, the documentary portrays a side of her that suggests the criticism over her American Music Awards performance and the release of her breakup hymn can be considered a manner of healing. Gomez changes the public's perspective of her through the documentary and by revealing private details about her family life.

Gomez longs for the kind of intimacy her notoriety has not quite delivered. When compared to her present media engagement and her experience of feeling like a "product," she thinks she has a higher calling to employ her influence—namely, communities that require aid. The reception Gomez garnered in Kenya underlined that she has found her own private haven despite the vitriol she faced in the last six years.

While in Kenya, Gomez explored what drives her beyond her fame: a desire to serve

others. Multiple times during the film, the singer explores this passion by going back to her roots and opening up about her life.

The singer shows no signs of guarding herself as she invites the camera team into her house and introduces them to her friends and family. Gomez takes the camera crew into her past by showing them her



Graphic Clara Faulkner

childhood home in Grand Prairie, Texas. She even showed them the place where she first found out she had been cast in the show "Barney."

For Keshishian, it was important to provide Gomez, now 30, with a secure environment because this documentary is the most fragile she has ever appeared to her audience.

In a more public light, the documentary focuses on Gomez's return to the music industry with the release of her song "Lose You to Love Me," which is considered her most melancholy composition. Not only did this song shatter records, but Gomez also received significant criticism over her performance. The documentary shows her response to the criticism that was published in the news, and it is unfiltered and intense.

Gomez had a panic episode while performing at the AMAs, a performance

meant to mark her return to the spotlight. Gomez claims she is ready to return to performing after months of preparation, but this time it will be on her conditions. In the documentary, she laments, and the revelation of her difficulties is poignant.

The singer's mental health issues are laid bare for the audience, along with the truth of her hospitalization. This theme is explored extensively throughout the documentary, demonstrating its accessibility and honesty.

Gomez's documentary is heavily focused on maturation, and the singer says her watching experience was equally destructive. Gomez has stated she will not re-watch the documentary, since she is not the same person she used to be.

Although the documentary focuses mostly on Gomez's past, viewers are also given a glimpse into the present. Gomez, the creator of the up-and-coming Rare

Beauty makeup brand, is intent on releasing music with an emphasis on relationships to which the general public has not been exposed.

As she enters her thirties, Gomez is intent on beginning a new chapter, disclosing more about her history and embracing who she truly is now—someone who takes care of others and advocates for education. The actress uses her emotions throughout the documentary to convey not just the message of mental health awareness, but also spread the tale of a young woman learning to cope with adulthood.

Throughout *My Mind and Me*, Gomez demonstrates she is doing more than fighting for her own survival; she is actively making a difference in the lives of those around her.

clara_faulkner@emerson.edu

Sports

'We did it, we finally did it,' Lions elated at NEWMAC victory

Cont. from Pg. 1

Johnston struggled to produce offense through the regular season, but hit her stride in the playoffs. Head Coach David Suvak said he expected her to start producing.

"I had very high expectations for her all season long," he said. "She's been a little snakebitten, but these last three games she's really generated some dangerous attacks so it doesn't surprise me."

Bruce said Johnston—who joined the team after graduating from University of Idaho in the spring—was primed for success as the team entered the postseason.

"When you come on to a new team, it's hard to adjust," Bruce said. "Towards the back half of [the season] she was regaining that confidence and coming into the tournament, it was clear she was going to step up."

Johnston stepped up, giving her team the cushion it needed to close out a victory. Throughout the last

"I feel that we really have solidified our place at Emerson as an athletic department," she said. "Everybody has really taken great pride in what we've been able to do... It's a credit to the village because it takes a village to get us there."

But Suvak says Emerson's journey isn't over yet, as the team now has a bid to the NCAA tournament.

"On Monday we'll find out who our opponent is going to be," he said. "We'll tailor all the training sessions towards a Saturday match."

Bruce said the team will prepare for the next round of the postseason, but first, they'll take a moment to relax.

"Step one is to recover," she said. "This week has been a lot on our bodies with a game every other day. But after that, it's the same mentality that we approach every game with, it's just another game and you've got to go out and perform."

Nicol said the tides have turned and expectations have risen in the



Emerson midfielder Cali Bruce plays in front of a crowd of fans at Rotch Field on Saturday. / Photo Danny Kennedy

14 minutes of regulation, the Lions staved off four more Cougar shots in front of a raucous home crowd. When the clock read zeroes, students stormed the field in celebration, but Suvak was standing on the sidelines, soaking in the moment.

"I reflected briefly about so many good players that I have coached in this program," he said. "Without all those players and all those teams, this team would never be where they are."

The historic tournament run was made even more special for Suvak as he recorded his 100th win to start the Lions' trek to the NEWMAC championship. Athletic Director Pat Nicol said she wasn't surprised by the milestone, citing his recruitment and people-management skills as key skills he possesses.

"Dave wants to be the best coach he can be," she said. "It's about building the person. It's about the growth of the individual through sport and he's laid a foundation that is sustainable, that we're going to be able to build on."

The NEWMAC Champions celebrated on the field, soaking Suvak with a Gatorade jug full of water and lifting their trophy in front of a still-strong crowd of Emerson fans.

Emerson hasn't typically fought for titles, but Nicol said the achievements of both the men's and women's soccer teams aided in garnering the institution more recognition.

last few years. To continue their growth, she mentioned the phrase, "success breeds success," and said the Lions hope to do just that.

"Confidence only comes with a process," Nicol said. "Each step is a learning process and we don't go into a contest anymore, hoping to win, we go into a contest now expecting to win."

The women's soccer team is slated to start its first ever NCAA tournament run, traveling to Weiss Field in Scranton, PA to battle the Westfield State Owls on Saturday.

Winning the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, the Owls (15-3-1) have stomped opponents, scoring 2.84 goals per game. With losses to just Southern Maine, Eastern Connecticut State, and Western New England, the Owls will be riding an eight-game winning streak heading into the program's ninth tournament bid.

The Lions have shown a strong defensive presence, using a style of play which emphasizes pressuring opponents to give up possession. Beating Clark, the Lions recorded its 12th clean sheet of the year.

If the Lions win, they will move on to play the winner of Bowdoin College and the University of Scranton on Sunday.

contact@berkeleybeacon.com

Basketball doubleheader yields wins for men's and women's squads

Jordan Pagkalinawan and Leo Kagan
Beacon Staff

Emerson's men's and women's basketball teams each secured season-opening victories Tuesday night—the men steamrolled Gordon College 95-51 and the women defeated Wentworth 71-64.

Playing back-to-back in the Bobbi Brown and Steven Plofker Gym, the Lions looked to return to winning ways, capitalizing on a strong home crowd.

Men's team

The men's basketball team stepped on the court first. Starting with the Gordon Fighting Scots, the Lions were hungry to climb back to the top after finishing with a devastating loss to University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in the NCAA Tournament.

Emerson jumped out to an 11-7 lead with buckets from returning graduate student center Jarred Houston and guard Nate Martin and senior forward Ben Allen and guard James Beckwith. They continued to add points with ease, as Martin's two free throws and a pull-up three made it 20-10 with 10:33 to go.

Gordon got back into the game, cutting the deficit to six with 6:09 remaining in the half. Beckwith helped the Lions weather the storm with two free throws and caught a pass from Allen to make an easy layup with four minutes to go.

The Lions dominated, rebuilding the lead to 43-25 at halftime. Beckwith led the way with 15 points and two threes, and Martin contributed 13 points, four rebounds and two assists.

The team played solid defense in the first, contesting shots all over the floor and earning three steals and 14 defensive rebounds.

The Lions continued to prowl in the second half, as Beckwith buried another three and first-year guard Brendan McNamara found Martin for a layup over two defenders, leading 55-29 with 16:15 to go.

Emerson refused to take its feet off the gas, outscoring Gordon 32-11 for the next nine minutes, leading 81-38 at the 7:21 mark. The pressure from the Lions was too much for the Fighting Scots, who fell 95-51.

With returning players making up the four of the starting five, first-years such as forward/center Asher



Emerson Guard Ella Bushee makes a play. / Photo Arthur Mansavage

defense, capturing 46 rebounds, forcing 19 turnovers, and claiming nine steals during the game.

"We're going to have nights where we don't shoot the ball very well, but our defense has to be there," Curley said. "I thought the guys came out, understood our game plan and got after it. That's what I'm most proud of."

Martin and Beckwith had 21 points each in the opening victory, while Houston poured in 16 points and 15 rebounds. Curley liked how the three of them were unselfish and able to play off each other well.

Martin said the key to his performance was feeding off of the team's opening night energy.

"I really just wanted to play the right way and set the right tone for the season," he said.

The first-year McNamara tallied six points and three assists as a starter. Gaining experience from his older brother who graduated from WPI, the guard came in ready to make an impact.

"I try not to think of it as pressure, I try to see it more as an opportunity," he said. "It's something that I've earned. [I] also credit my teammates and coaches for giving me confidence that I'm ready. Naturally, you get a little pressure, but it's just basketball at the end of the day. I've done it my whole life, so I'm ready for anything."

Women's team

The women's team took the court shortly after, jumping out to a commanding lead early and scoring



Emerson guard Trevor Arico plays takes a shot during Tuesday's game against Gordon. / Photo Arthur Mansavage

Gardiner, point guard Jacob Armant, forward Jeff Tan, and guard Peyton Lodge have made a great impression on Head Coach Bill Curley.

"They're working hard in practice, and they [have] a great group of veterans they're learning from," he said. "They have the luxury that they can learn from these guys and not worry about life or death."

The Lions showcased strong

first nine points of the game while sticking to their defensive structure, registering four steals, two defensive rebounds, and a block before the Leopards scored their first bucket.

Though Wentworth pushed back towards the end of the first quarter, eventually evening the score at 12, the Lions ended the frame on a high note, with sophomore guard Bianca Benson hitting a three and soph-

omore forward Devin Hill making a layup to pull the team ahead 17-12.

In the second quarter, sophomore Mackenzie Bruno opened the scoring with a layup for the Lions, who proceeded to pad their lead for most of the period. Five points from senior guard Chelsea Gibbons and four points apiece from Hill and junior guard Olivia Delsauriers propelled Emerson to a 38-19 lead.

But at the end of the quarter, Wentworth stormed back for seven straight points to bring the score to 38-26 at the end of the half, keeping what looked like a runaway game within reach.

The Lions, who outscored the Leopards 21-14 in the second quarter, managed just 14 points of their own in the third. Junior guard Ella Bushee shone for the Lions, collecting half of the team's third-quarter tallies, but could not outscore the Leopards, who logged 17 points in the third frame and ended the quarter down 52-43. Junior guard Ava Salti said she thought the team came out of the first half a little too comfortable.

"At half-time we spoke about coming out strong," she said. "But that's the thing about sports, stuff just happens. I thought maybe we got a little bit complacent."

Head Coach Bill Gould added the opposition seemed to come out more fired up, and the Lions ran into some discipline issues throughout the game registering 26 fouls on the night.

"They have a new coach, and they're gonna play hard," he said. "They had a couple of kids hit a few threes and then we got just too many fouls, [which] is really what killed us."

In the last quarter, the Lions were again outscored, this time 21-19, not enough to lose the game but enough to frustrate the team. Gould said the team will work on defense in practice.

"We need a tremendous amount of work on [defense]," he said. "We gave up way too many points to that team."

In the final minute of the game, the score separated the teams by just five points. A pair of free throws from Deslauriers pushed the Lions to the finish line, winning 71-64—the team's fifth consecutive season-opening victory. Salti said the team relied on its experience to survive the late Leopards press.

"I thought we did a pretty good job of that," she said. "Just continuing moving forward when we thought things could have went better for us. That's how we got the win."

Gould took a less optimistic position. When asked what was essential to the win, his answer was blunt.

"We scored more points than they did," he said. "That's about the only key."

Moving Forward

The women's team will return to the court and attempt to tighten up their play on Thursday, when they face Colby-Sawyer College on the road, while the men's team continues their home-stand on Saturday against Tufts at 1pm.